

Assembly Bill No. 773

CHAPTER 472

An act to amend Section 1429 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to health facilities.

[Approved by Governor October 11, 2009. Filed with
Secretary of State October 11, 2009.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 773, Lieu. Health facilities: citations: notifications.

Under existing law, the Long-Term Care, Health, Safety, and Security Act of 1973, the State Department of Public Health administers various requirements pertaining to long-term health care facilities. Violation of these provisions is punishable by various classes of administrative citations with corresponding administrative penalties.

Existing law contains posting and retention requirements applicable to facilities receiving class "AA," class "A," and class "B" violations.

The bill would revise requirements relating to the posting and retention by a facility of citations for class "AA" and class "A" violations. It would provide that violation of these class "AA," class "A," and class "B" posting and retention requirements would constitute a class "B" violation, subject to a specified civil penalty, and would require the civil penalty to be deposited into the existing State Health Facilities Citation Penalties Account.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 1429 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

1429. (a) Each class "AA" and class "A" citation specified in subdivisions (b) and (c) of Section 1424 that is issued, or a copy or copies thereof, shall be prominently posted for 120 days. The citation or copy shall be posted in a place or places in plain view of the patients or residents in the long-term health care facility, persons visiting those patients or residents, and persons who inquire about placement in the facility.

(1) The citation shall be posted in at least the following locations in the facility:

- (A) An area accessible and visible to members of the public.
- (B) An area used for employee breaks.
- (C) An area used by residents for communal functions, such as dining, resident council meetings, or activities.

(2) The citation, along with a cover sheet, shall be posted on a white or light-colored sheet of paper, at least 8 ½ by 11 inches in size, that includes all of the following information:

(A) The full name of the facility, in a clear and easily readable font in at least 28-point type.

(B) The full address of the facility, in a clear and easily readable font in at least 20-point type.

(C) Whether the citation is class “AA” or class “A.”

(3) The facility may post the plan of correction.

(4) The facility may post a statement disputing the citation or a statement showing the appeal status, or both.

(5) The facility may remove and discontinue the posting required by this section if the citation is withdrawn or dismissed by the department, or is dismissed as a result of a citation review conference.

(b) Each class “B” citation specified in subdivision (d) of Section 1424 that is issued pursuant to this section and that has become final, or a copy or copies thereof, shall be retained by the licensee at the facility cited until the violation is corrected to the satisfaction of the department. Each citation shall be made promptly available by the licensee for inspection or examination by any member of the public who so requests. In addition, every licensee shall post in a place or places in plain view of the patient or resident in the long-term health care facility, persons visiting those patients or residents, and persons who inquire about placement in the facility, a prominent notice informing those persons that copies of all final uncorrected citations issued by the department to the facility will be made promptly available by the licensee for inspection by any person who so requests.

(c) A violation of this section shall constitute a class “B” violation, and shall be subject to a civil penalty in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), as provided in subdivision (e) of Section 1424. Notwithstanding Section 1290, a violation of this section shall not constitute a crime. Fines imposed pursuant to this section shall be deposited into the State Health Facilities Citation Penalties Account, created pursuant to Section 1417.2.